

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 /012 W
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P R 111321Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0114

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4149

STATE FOR CU/CP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS - ST. PAUL ORCHESTRA

REF: BUCHAREST 3736

1. IN NOTE DAED AUGUST 30 RECEIVED EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 7, ARIA ACCEPTS ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PROPOSAL AND, IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, SUGGESTED APPEARANCES OF ORCHESTRA IN PLOESTI, BUCHAREST, AND BRASOV. ARIA, HOWEVER, HAS MADE PERFORMANCES OF ST. PAUL HERE CONTINGENT ON EMBASSY "SUPPORT" OF APPEARANCES OF ARETHA FRANKLIN IN BUCHAREST IN DECEMBER, 1974.

2. ACCORDING TO ARIA'S REASONING (AS BEST THE POST CAN DETERMINE), SPONSORSHIP OF ST. PAUL APPEARANCES HERE WILL RESULT IN A "FINANCIAL DEFICIT." THEY ARE, THEREFORE "OBLIGATED" TO "COMPENSATE" FOR THIS PROGRAM BY PRESENTING AN ARTIST WITH "A GREATER FINANCIAL RETURN." (IN THIS CASE, ARETHA FRANKLIN.) A YUGOSLAV AGENT HAS REQUESTED \$10,000 FOR TWO APPEARANCES HERE OF ARETHA FRANKLIN AND AN ACCOMPANYING GROUP. ARIA HAS OFFERED \$3000 AND 15,000 LEI AND ACCOMMODATIONS. THE EMBASSY AND, BY IMPLICATION, THE DEPARTMENT, ARE BEING ASKED TO "SUPPORT" THE DIFFERENCE AS A CONDITION OF ST. PAUL APPEARANCES.

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3. EMBASSY PLANS TO CALL ON ARIA DIRECTOR FLOREA EARLY NEXT

WEEK TO ADVISE HIM WE ARE UNABLE TO AGREE TO SUCH A SCHEME. ARIA STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO UNDERSTAND THAT FACTS OF LIFE REGARDING OUR RESOURCES AND THE SCOPE OF OUR CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS PROGRAM. AT THIS DATE, IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT IMPACT OUR REFUSAL TO SUPPORT FRANKLIN WILL HAVE ON ST. PAUL PROPOSAL. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE THIS APPROACH IN ORDER TO QUICKLY FORESTALL UNDESIREABLE PRECEDENT.

4. FYI-ARIA'S "ACCEPTANCE" OF ST. PAUL INCLUDED INTERNAL COSTS ONLY AND NOT-REPEAT NOT- INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FROM PRAGUE ORIGINALLY REQUESTED. END FYI.
BARNES

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NNN

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